to take place. Official level meetings have taken place including those of the Home Secretaries and the Water Resources Secretaries in September 2004. Foreign Office Consultations were held in June 2005. The third meeting of the Joint Working Group on Trade took place in Dhaka from 1-2 August 2005. During these meetings, both sides reaffirmed the importance they attached to the bilateral relationship and expressed their intent to further expand, deepen and strengthen cooperation.

(b) and (c) During the Foreign Office Consultation held in June 2005, the two sides discussed issues relating to improved connectivity in the region. Both sides agreed to explore the possibility of commencing Dhaka-Guwahati, Dhaka—Shillong and Dhaka—Siliguri bus services.

(d) No, Sir, Bangladesh denies presence of any anti India activities and has assured us that it would not allow its territory to be used against interests of a third country, especially a friendly country like India.

(e) We have raised the issue of anti- India activities with Bangladesh at all levels, including at the highest political level. PM raised this matter with the Prime Minister of Bangladesh (BDPM) during their meeting on the sidelines of the BIMST-EC summit. BDPM assured PM that Bangladesh did not want anyone to use their territory for terrorism. The matter was also taken up with the Foreign Minister of Bangladesh during his visits to India. It has been discussed at the level of Foreign Secretaries, Home Secretaries and Joint Secretaries as well as in the biannual meetings of the Director Generals of Border Security Force and Bangladesh Rifles. During the Foreign Office Consultations held in June 2005, the two sides reaffirmed their commitment not to allow their territory to be used for any activities inimical to each other's interests.

Indians imprisioned abroad without visa

1949. SHRI TARLOCHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state;

(a) the number of imprisoned Indians in varioius countries who have been arrested because of not having proper visa; and

(b) what steps have been taken by Government to get them released.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) The requisite information is being collected from the Indian Missions and Posts abroad and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Indians abroad without legal documents

1950. SHRI TARLOCHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state;

(a) the total number of Indians living in different countries without legal documents, such as Indian passports or citizenship of that country; and

(b) what steps have been taken by Government to help them to get Indian passports or to help them to get citizenship of that country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) The requisite information is being collected from the Indian Missions and Posts abroad and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Unemployment in the country

†1951. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that nine million people were unemployed in the country during 1999-2000;

(b) if so, the estimated number of unemployed during the year 2005;

(c) whether it is also a fact that unemployment in the country is increasing due to less creation of employment opportunities;

(d) if so, whether Government have given any suggestions for increasing creation of employment opportunities; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.